

May 24, 2021

To the Postal Regulatory Commission:

I am not part of the Postal sector; I'm an American citizen who believes in the Postal Service. I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes to the Postal System that would further degrade service and standards.

I believe in Universal Service and the survival of a public agency the people of this country can rely on. I know that USPS has been burdened by costs no other government agency carries in terms of pension obligations and an expectation that it "turn a profit".

We understand how the pandemic has worsened processing and delivery problems that already existed. I have recently experienced late mail and delays like getting insurance sign-up mail **after** the action deadline date had already passed, which may be due to the increasing use of temporary, non-union mail carriers or a dozen other changes we are hearing about. Gone are the days when my mail arrived dependably. Further cuts to service will only worsen the situation.

I am writing to ask the PRC to pause further changes until you as a regulatory commission can better understand what would make the USPS viable, and once again reliable and efficient, by examining a full range of ways to pay for it.

Americans want their Postal service to survive, and we should be allowed to have input on a plan as important as the one now being considered. If it is determined that another rate hike is what it would take, then Congress should take up the question of providing additional funding, updating the business model, or modifying some of the burdensome future pension funding requirements. As a last resort a rate hike is an option, but only if Congress addresses the hardship to the elderly and disadvantaged first. I can pay more, but others cannot.

This proposed 10-year plan is not well thought out. Declining service will mean declining use. Many Americans simply do not have other options for paying bills, banking and other necessary communications.

Approval of this plan as it is a non-starter. We need transparency and public discussion. You should be willing to acknowledge that if you accept this plan as is, without considering public input, you will be actively contributing to the demise of our oldest Constitutionally mandated public service.

Please consider our displeasure with this plan and the current leadership of this indispensable public service.

Sincerely,

J. L. Hilleary

Alexandria VA 22304